

## **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 - 19 are pending.

Claims 4-8, 15, 16 and 19 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 9-14, 17 and 18 stand rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 4-8, 15, 16 and 19 have been objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 4, 15 and 19 have been amended, herein.

Claims 1-3, 9-14, 17 and 18 have been cancelled, without prejudice, herein.

## **REMARKS**

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's statement that claims 4-8, 15, 16 and 19 would constitute allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 4-8, 15, 16 and 19 to include all the limitations of the base claims from which they depend, respectively. Thus, Applicant believes the application is ripe for allowance.

### **Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a)**

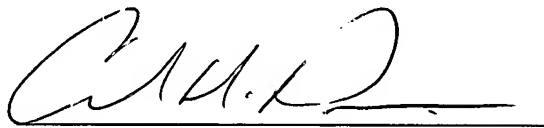
Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, claims 1-3, 9-14, 17 and 18 rejected by the Examiner, and reserves the right to further prosecute in one or more continuing applications, those, and any other claims, supported by the disclosure of the present application.

## **CONCLUSION**

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Date: March 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.H. Pierce', written over a horizontal line.

Carl H. Pierce  
Reg. No. 45,730

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